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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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### STATE OF MONTANA

Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau  
(406) 444-2821

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

July 29, 1986

AUG 5 - 1986

RE: Preliminary Environmental Review  
Wise River Container Site

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Eugene Regan, RS, County Sanitarian  
Beaverhead County Refuse Disposal District, P.O. Box 1166, Dillon, MT  
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, MDHES, Helena, MT  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT  
✓ Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Wise River Container Site.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James E. Leiter in dark ink.

JAMES E. LEITER  
Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau

✓mh  
Encl.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601  
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Project or Application Wise River Container Site

Description of Project The Beaverhead County Refuse District has applied for a Solid Waste Management System License for a 40 yard roll-off container site at the old Wise River dump. The new container program will replace the old open burning dump site and will serve the Wise River area. Solid waste will be removed from the area and hauled to an approved landfill elsewhere. Additional comments can be found on the attached sheet and a copy of the license application is available from this office.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality			X			X
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

# POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health		X				X
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals			X			X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Beaverhead County Health Department

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS No EIS necessary

PER Prepared by: James E. Leiter, R.S.

Date: July 29, 1986

## WISE RIVER CONTAINER SITE

Operation of a 40 yard roll-off container site at the Wise River dumpsite will result in a general improvement of health and environmental protection for the site users and area residents. The old dumpsite had been a source of concern for many years because of several factors, including open burning, lack of adequate and regular cover and a high potential for groundwater contamination.

The following specific comments address the impacts of the container site:

### Potential Impact on Physical Environment

- #1) Terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats - As the container site becomes established and the old dumpsite reverts to native vegetation, small mammal and insect populations will increase slightly, due to increased habitat availability.
- #2) Aesthetics - The closure of the existing open, burning dumpsite can have an extremely positive effect on area aesthetics if the site users do not continue the "burn habit" acquired with the old system. The 40 yard container concept can improve disposal aesthetics a great deal if utilized properly. Many transfer container systems are operated immediately adjacent to residential areas.
- #6) Air quality - Again, air quality in the area of the container can be improved dramatically if open burning ceases with the replacement of the old dump site.

### Potential Impacts of Human Environment

- #5) Human health - The container system, if properly operated, could improve health, safety and environmental protection in the Wise River area. The old dumpsite was a known threat to local resources for many years.
- #13) Locally adopted environmental plans and goals - The establishment of the new container site is in accord with local plans and goals for the county solid waste district. The replacement of the old, unlicensed dumpsite is another step forward in the county's solid waste program.
- #14) Transportation networks and traffic flows - The container at the site will be replaced at least weekly. This will mean a minor, but insignificant increase in commercial truck traffic at the site.





